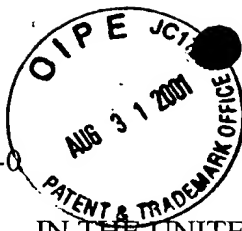


0010-1057-0



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

YOSHIHIRO USUDA ET AL

SERIAL NO. : 09/441,055

FILED: NOVEMBER 16, 1999

FOR: METHOD FOR PRODUCING L-
METHIONINE BY FERMENTATION

:

: EXAMINER: TUNG

:

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1652

:

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

SEP 05 2001

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AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated June 5, 2001, Applicants request reconsideration in light of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 10 and add the following new claims:

12. (New) A method for producing L-methionine which comprises culturing a microorganism in a medium to produce and accumulate L-methionine in the medium, and collecting the L-methionine from the medium, wherein the microorganism is deficient in a repressor of L-methionine biosynthesis system and has L-methionine productivity.

13. (New) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the microorganism further comprises at least one characteristic selected from the group consisting of:

(a) exhibits reduced intracellular S-adenosylmethionine synthetase activity;

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